



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003

No. 49

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be given by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon, pastor emeritus of Georgetown Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we thank Thee for this cornucopia of a continent, blessed not only by natural beauty and resources but by the courage, endurance, inventive skill, and robust faith of those who came, and by the vision and wisdom of the Founders who lived with the awareness that their deeds were done under Thy Providence. We are heirs to a freedom, itself not free, but bought by others' sacrifice. We think even now of those who suffered and died to pass on this legacy.

Remind us, Lord, that the everyday panoramic picture of life in this land is only possible when maintained within the framework of a strong defense. Since the only guarantee of the rights enunciated by the Constitution lies in the will of people prepared to die for them, then multiply, O God, our gratitude to all those who have done so in the past and those who continue to lay their lives on the line for the long-term safety and protection of this Nation and the cause of liberty across the globe. In these testing times give guidance and steadfastness to freedom's defenders: the President and his advisors, the Armed Forces, our allies, and the representatives of the people who gather under this roof.

O God, although the future is unknown, yet grant to this Senate to see clearly the eternal beacons by which the Founders were led. So bless them with vision informed by wisdom; wisdom instructed by truth; truth revealed to integrity and integrity

touched by love—all learned in humility before Thee, O God, whose children we are called to be. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LINDSEY GRAHAM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. For the information of all Senators, this morning there will be a period for morning business until 11:30 a.m. A number of Members have requested time to make remarks regarding our courageous men and

women of the Armed Forces, and this morning will be an opportunity for them to do that.

At 11:30, we will resume consideration of the budget resolution. We made substantial progress yesterday. Of the 22 amendments remaining on the list, far fewer will be offered and require votes. We will resume voting on the offered amendments at 11:30 a.m. and will continue voting over the course of the afternoon until we reach passage of the resolution.

Under the consent agreement reached last week, we will vote on adoption of the budget resolution at 4 p.m. today. It may be possible to complete action on the resolution earlier than that, but we will have to wait and see how many amendments will actually necessitate votes over the course of the late morning and early afternoon. To this point, we have had 45 rollcall votes on this budget resolution.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the chairman and ranking member for their orderly consideration of this very important measure. I will have more to say about their good work as we approach passage over the course of the afternoon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. While the majority leader is in the Chamber, on behalf of the Senate, I commend him and the minority leader for the arrangement that was made. This legislation upon which we work is almost impossible to go through each year, but we have done it. This year has been about as orderly as I have seen. I know the leader wanted to finish this bill last week, but it was just impossible to do, no matter what his wishes were. The work that the majority leader and Senator DASCHLE have done to allow us to get to this point has made it possible that the two managers could do the great work they have done to move this legislation along.

As I heard one Senator say last night, this is the Senate at its best. I

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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